

THE
OCCASIONAL
WRITER, &c.

CONTAINING
***'s LETTER;

AND A
REPLY to it;
PARAGRAPH by PARAGRAPH.

L O N D O N:

Printed for S. GREY in Old-Street:
And Sold by the Booksellers of Lon-
don and Westminster.

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DEAR SIR,

I Met with yours at a Bookseller's in print instead of receiving it at my Lodgings. When I wrote my Epistle I intended to be paid for it, but not in the Coin you sent me; I should have been much better pleased with a few lines directed to Mr. *Maddox*, importing *Pray pay, &c.* But I believe as you have read the Ancients you strive to imitate.

An-

Augustus Cæsar, who used to reward
 bad Panegyricks by endorsing them
 with worse. Your beginning is in-
 deed very courteous: — ‘ Dear Sir,
 ‘ I cannot make you too early,
 ‘ nor ample acknowledgments, for
 ‘ the unlimited tender you are so kind
 ‘ to make me of your service, as a
 ‘ writer: And though you scrupled
 ‘ signing your name, yet the master-
 ‘ like strokes, with which you have
 ‘ delineated your picture, hindered
 ‘ me from being one moment at a
 ‘ loss to guess whose it was. The in-
 ‘ genious confession you make of be-
 ‘ ing never actuated by any princi-
 ‘ ples that sway the honest part of
 ‘ mankind; your having no regard
 ‘ to publick or private faith; your
 ‘ setting at nought fidelity to parti-
 ‘ culars; allegiance to Princes, love
 ‘ to your Country; together with all
 ‘ obli-

‘ obligations, promises, oaths, and
 ‘ the rest of those foolish tyes, that
 ‘ bind weaker minds, and give laws
 ‘ to narrower Genius’s; are marks by
 ‘ which it was impossible not to di-
 ‘ stinguish you. For tho’ here and
 ‘ there, there may be some worthy
 ‘ Gentlemen, who may resemble you
 ‘ in this or that particular feature;
 ‘ yet the beautiful assemblage of them
 ‘ all is what you alone, Sir, can pre-
 ‘ tend to be master of.

THIS I am the more pleased
 with, as being almost my own very
 words, for you know we are all fond
 of our Brats.

‘ WHEN you say your first aim was
 to raise your reputation, I cannot suf-
 ficiently applaud your dexterity in
 making choice of that ambiguous
 ‘ word;

' word; since it fully prevents the
 ' most detracting disposition from
 ' asserting with the least colour of
 ' truth, that you have missed of that
 ' aim: And if the method you pur-
 ' sued to establish it, had fully suc-
 ' ceeded, according to your laudable
 ' and salutary schemes for this na-
 ' tion; History could not have fur-
 ' nished two heroes, worthy of ma-
 ' king up a Triumvirate with you,
 ' if the names of *Herostatus* and *Nero*
 ' had been lost.

You cannot deny but I have suc-
 ceeded in this since my Name is
 up, and so I may lie abed and
 sweat, and yet have all the Mischief
 laid at my Door.

* BUT I cannot help remarking the
 ' too unfortunate extreams, to which
 ' this

this thirst of reputation and inju-
 dicious ambition, have alternately
 brought you : Since they first
 mounted you to a dangerous height,
 where the ignorant only envied
 you; and have since plunged you
 in an abyss, where the weak can
 only pity you.

As for ups and downs, highs
 and lows, I think there is nothing
 at all in them. We great Folks, as
 you are pleased to term me, are
 liable to these Vicissitudes, and are
 like *Madam Violante*, sometimes up-
 on the Ladder, sometimes upon the
 Rope, and sometimes upon the
 Ground; and you know that no-
 thing is so natural as a Transition of
 us Scribblers, who often remove from
 the Garret to the Cellar, and so back
 again to the Vault, which I suppose

is what you mean by your Abyſs.

I am extremely pleaſed at the News you tell me in what follows :

‘ WHEN you boast that the first
 ‘ eſſays of your pen made a good deal
 ‘ of noiſe in the world, you do your
 ‘ ſelf but juſtice; not only the *Sor-*
 ‘ *bonne*, but all *France*, and *Rome* it
 ‘ ſelf had reaſon to reſound your praiſe
 ‘ and pay their humbleſt acknow-
 ‘ ledgments for the ſignal ſervice you
 ‘ did them in thoſe diſputes you re-
 ‘ conciled. But what your own coun-
 ‘ try owed you, for the differences
 ‘ you compoſed abroad, and foment-
 ‘ ed at home, I believe you would
 ‘ not be ſo glad to claim, nor was
 ‘ it your modeſty only that made you
 ‘ decline the reward ſhe was prepa-
 ‘ ring to beſtow.

I vow to gad, Sir, this is bran new to me, as I told you before, for I never suspected my labours going farther than *Grubstreet*; I wish this may not be only a put off to save five Guineas. That you give me Fame for Fame, which is too thin diet for so sharp a stomach as my aerial habitation gives me. My dear Neighbour and Fellow Labourer Mr. *Mitchel*, having so successfully address'd you in Rhyme, I was in hopes to have met with the like good fortune by writing to you in Prose, and setting your Merits in a true light, but I perceive you hate so fulsome a *Ragoût* as flattery, and can't swallow it unless cooked up *Braund* or the Muses.

Y O U R next Paragraph which begins with an——

B 2

As

' As to your conscience which you
 ' would so generously give up to my
 ' keeping, I think my self unspeak-
 ' ably obliged to you for so kind an
 ' offer. For tho' most ambitious
 ' people wou'd be glad to part with
 ' that impertinent monitor, because
 ' they are apt to find him now and
 ' then a little troublesome, yet you
 ' have given such incontestible proofs
 ' of this not being your case, that I
 ' can never thank you enough for de-
 ' voting to my service so indulgent
 ' a friend, and so tractable a compa-
 ' nion : But unless you could divest me
 ' of my own and my reason to boot
 ' I fear I should not be able to make
 ' much use of this assignment.

I tell you, Sir, I have long had
 no use for it, and was willing to
 let you have it a Bargain, and there-
 fore

fore left it in your hands; but as you seem to think it troublesome, I'll e'en take it back again, presuming it is not the worse for wearing.

‘ UPON the whole, Sir, I cannot
 ‘ but bemoan our mutual loss, that
 ‘ where there is so good a disposition
 ‘ to do me service, there should be so
 ‘ little ability. What would the
 ‘ World say of my Cause, if I
 ‘ should take a slip that would be-
 ‘ tray my thinking it so desperate,
 ‘ as the calling in emancipated
 ‘ Slaves, proscribed Criminals, or
 ‘ insolvent Debtors, to support it?
 ‘ These Methods you know, Sir,
 ‘ are accounted as evident Marks of
 ‘ despair in Politicians, as the pre-
 ‘ scribing *Kensington* Gravel-Pits, or
 ‘ Pigeons to the Patient's Feet, are
 ‘ of

‘ of despondency in Physicians: And
 ‘ was I so near sinking as to catch
 ‘ at such Reeds to support me, yet I
 ‘ fear I should find the Qualifications
 ‘ you boast of to recommend you,
 ‘ as little useful to a Minister, as
 ‘ you found them in one.

I fear by this particular that you
 mistake your Man, for I find my
 self but once mentioned in it, which
 is under the name of an *Insolvent*
Debtor; for I am neither a Gravel-
 Pit nor a Pigeon. Nor did I ever
 take them for Reeds to support
 drowning Men; nor did I ever offer
 my self to serve a *Minister* in any
 capacity, being fit for no employ-
 ment about him, not even that of a
 Sexton.

‘ W H E N

' WHEN MENAS the freed-man
 ' of *Pompey* the younger, a man of
 ' parts without probity, and enter-
 ' prizing without conduct, revolted
 ' first from *Pompey* to *Octavius*, then
 ' from *Octavius* to *Pompey*, and then
 ' from *Pompey* to *Octavius* again;
 ' you may remember what was the
 ' consequence of receiving and list-
 ' ning to that Fugitive, and from
 ' thence may learn the reasons why I
 ' can never advise * * * *
 ' * * * * to do otherwise by
 ' you, than *Augustus* at last did by
 ' him; who, according to the laws
 ' of War, reaped the allowed bene-
 ' fit accruing from the treachery of
 ' that shameless deserter, but never
 ' put it in his power a second time to
 ' betray him.

THAT

THAT same *Menas* you speak of I fancy must have been *Valet de Chambre* to *Pompey*, as I gather from the Name of *Freed-Man*, i. e. being taken out of livery; and if, Sir, you mean to recommend me to a Gentleman's service I should be much obliged to you, and think it a sufficient payment for my Panegyrick; for I can assure you I can change Sides as nimbly as ever that same Gentleman could for his life. But as for *Larvs of War* and benefits accruing from *my Treachery*, I could never do any thing more than stealing something out of my Master's Pocket. I am extremely flatter'd to think that the Nation honours me so much as to have so inconsiderable a Man in their thoughts; yet my Vanity flatters me so strongly that I am apt to believe you when you say,

NO R

' NOR do I speak my single senti-
 ' ments upon this occasion, but
 ' those of the whole nation: for be-
 ' lieve me, dear Sir; (as hard a task
 ' as it is) you have united the opi-
 ' nions of mankind with regard to
 ' you; and the decent contempt,
 ' which the better sort of them ex-
 ' press for you, is as strong a mark
 ' of dislike, as the grosser railing of
 ' the other: This being the case, *Pa-*
 ' *linurus* must be very drowsy in-
 ' deed, if he could consent to trust
 ' the rudder one moment in the
 ' hands of such a Deputy, and would
 ' deserve to find that pilot's fate; a
 ' terrible one indeed, but not the
 ' worst; for who had not rather pe-
 ' rish singly without involving the
 ' crew committed to his care, than
 ' sink all those poor confiding
 ' wretches, who had set him at the
 ' helm,

‘ helm, and by a shameful scramble
 ‘ save his own wretched Life, and
 ‘ swim to shore?

YOU seem here by the mention
 of that Man with an hard name to ac-
 cuse me with getting drunk some-
 times: Really, Sir, I acknowledge it
 to be my misfortune, but as I never
 intend to go beyond Sea again, it
 won’t be in my power to knock
 a Ship o’th’ head: Besides I hate
 Water like a Cat. So, Sir, I beg
 you will not think of recommending
 me to a Sea Captain, for my Sto-
 mach turns at the very thoughts of
 the gears and biles-water, though if
 I was there in a Wreck I’d scramble
 for my life as well as the best of
 them, and like the *South-Sea* Chaps
 cry, the Devil take the hind-
 most.

‘ AFTER

AFTER giving you my reasons
 for not accepting your future ser-
 vice, I think my self oblig'd in
 gratitude to thank you for the good
 turns you have already done me.
 Your kind information of what is
 laid to my charge in the company
 you frequent (if it is not merely the
 consequence of your natural pro-
 pensity to telling) is a mark of fa-
 vour that claims my warmest ac-
 knowledgements: And when you
 next assemble that candid body,
 you will oblige me in telling them.
 I am as far from fearing the ju-
 stice of any * * * * scrutiny
 into my conduct, as I am from
 being hurt by the unjust reflections
 thrown out by those whose private
 envy is their only motive for pub-
 lick censure; and whatever contra-
 dictions these gentlemen may have
 C 2 observed

' observed in my character; there is
 ' one which I'll venture to assure
 ' you, you will never discover, which
 ' is my ever being alarmed at an op-
 ' position from one in the impo-
 ' tence of disgrace, who could never
 ' terrify me in the Zenith of his prof-
 ' perity.

DEAR SIR, I vow to gad I
 am extreamly your humble Servant
 for the obliging terms in which you
 here treat my poor services; which
 flows from your natural Benevolence
 not from my mean Abilities; its
 your Goodness more than my De-
 serts. But I should be obliged to
 you if you would give me fewer
 Words and more Money, for I am
 past the Age of loving Sugar-Plumbs.
 I wonder, Sir, you would call me
Tell-tale, since it is extremely preju-
 dicing

ding my Reputation, and entirely incapacitating me from the Employment you seem to intend me of being *Valet de Chambre*, whose chief excellence must be holding his Tongue, since he is repository of his Master's dirty Secrets. As for the rest of this Paragraph it is all Heathen Greek to me, and I know no more of it than the Man in the Moon. You proceed to say,

‘ As to those wondring people
 ‘ who affect so much surprise at these
 ‘ changes in our Friendships and our
 ‘ Enemies abroad, that *France* should
 ‘ be now our dearest Friend, who
 ‘ was heretofore our most dreaded
 ‘ Enemy; and that the Emperor,
 ‘ who was so lately our darling Ally,
 ‘ should now become our most
 ‘ formidable foe; the answer to these
 ‘ gentle-

gentlemen is a very plain and short
 one, 'tis not the Emperor, nor
 France, nor Spain, nor this, nor
 r'other Potentate, to whom we
 must keep up a perpetual opposi-
 tion, grant a constant assistance:
 Power will always be fluctuating
 amongst the Princes of *Europe*, and
 where-ever the present flow of it
 appears, (especially in open and di-
 rect Violations of our just rights)
 there is our enemy, there the pro-
 per object of our fears. And I can
 never think our having once lent a
 hand to raise the Emperor, is any
 argument why we should suffer him
 afterwards to climb what heights he
 pleases, at the expence and upon
 the ruins of this nation: The same
 Policy that suggested the one, ju-
 stifies our putting a stop to the o-
 ther; and I hope as he found our
 assist-

assistance not unavailing in one Si-
 tuation. He may prove our oppo-
 sition not insignificant in the other ;
 And that we may be able to set
 some bounds to his acquisitions, if
 we can't to his ambition. And
 therefore you will pardon me, Sir,
 for still differing from you as I have
 always done in foreign affairs ; and
 for not thinking, that when our
 most valuable branches of trade
 are usurped, our possessions attack-
 ed, and our present happy esta-
 blishment in the Protestant line
 threat'ned without provocation,
 and in defiance of the most so-
 lemn Treaties, we are in this case
 to sit still, and wait to see whe-
 ther other Princes and States will
 quarrel and fight among them-
 selves for our interests ; and, re-
 maining entirely indolent and in-
 different

' different our selves, leave to chance
 ' and the care of other powers such
 ' inestimable blessings, upon the pro-
 ' servation or loss of which, the
 ' riches, strength and security of this
 ' nation so immediately and essen-
 ' tially depend. But as self-love na-
 ' turally disposes men to like those
 ' best, next to themselves, who re-
 ' semble them most, I do not won-
 ' der at your having for the Empe-
 ' ror, whom you formerly so much
 ' abhorred, so great a concern and
 ' friendship, since he has acted so
 ' ungrateful a part towards this na-
 ' tion; and, by the same rule of
 ' good Principle and Honesty, at
 ' your appearing now so inveterate
 ' against *France*, which so kindly
 ' received and entertained you when
 ' your guilt made you fly your own
 ' country.

S T A B

STAP my Vitals if you don't strike me stark dumb, deaf and blind! Why, Sir, Sir, are you awake! What can poor Pagan *** in his Garret have to do with *France, Spain, Emperor, Treaties, Princes, States, &c.* There are one or two words in it that I like very well, that same of Riches, &c. And as to your saying that I fled for guilt from my own Country, I defy any Man to say that black is my Eye upon that account, for I only ran away for Horse-stealing. If your last Paragraph was long and related not at all to me, the following is short and pithy:

‘ IF you will be so good to give
 ‘ these things in answer for me, when-
 ‘ ever you hear me attacked upon
 ‘ this head, it will be all the ser-

D

‘ vice

‘ vice I shall ever desire you to do
 ‘ me, and all the employment I shall
 ‘ ever trouble you with.

BUT faith, Sir, it is not quite
 so clear as ’tis short, be pleased to ex-
 plain your self whether you’d have
 me get my Head broke in your ser-
 vice and give me no Employment
 but the pleasure of being beaten;
 at this rate one might be in the ser-
 vice of Honour where Folks get
 nothing but broken Bones and bloody
 Noses; and I can assure you, Sir,
 I always had a mortal aversion to
 those Bear-garden Entertainments,
 and tho’ it is true I have lost my
 Teeth, yet was it neither at Fisti-
 cuffs nor Fighting; for I disposed
 of them in a generous way, laying
 them out in a noble purchase;
 for in lieu of them I had present
 plea-

pleasure and a Wife in reversion, as Monsieur D— can tell, and Madam * * * testifies unto all Men. Besides, Sir, the loss of my Teeth gave me occasion to shew my heroick Patience. Monsieur *la Peroné* knows how like *Seneca* I bore the being set in a Tub, whilst Sweat instead of Blood distilled from each Limb. With what temperance I abstained from my beloved Champagne; with what silence and heroick constancy I felt the burnings of my blister Mouth, sucked in my Nutrient, spit out my Teeth. Can you conceive, Sir, a Man of such Philosophy to be a dangerous Friend or a harmless Foe; tho' you treat me very despicably in the following Lines;

‘ I know how natural it will be for
 ‘ a gentleman of your restless spirit,
 ‘ upon this repulse to turn the point
 ‘ of your zeal (*in utrumque paratus*)
 ‘ against the breast of him, in whose
 ‘ defence you offer’d to draw it: But
 ‘ I shall have many fewer apprehen-
 ‘ sions in making you my enemy,
 ‘ than I should have had in receiving
 ‘ you as a friend; because ’tis well
 ‘ known you are as harmless in one
 ‘ capacity as you are dangerous in
 ‘ the other.

‘ I must inform you too; that
 ‘ if you design to be very scurrilous
 ‘ and abusive in your invectives,
 ‘ your changing your name in
 ‘ libels, as often as you have done
 ‘ your party in politicks, will not
 ‘ prevent your being discovered.
 ‘ When *Proteus* try’d successively the
 ‘ Flame,

' Flame, the Lyon and the Bear, to
 ' intimidate *Aristæus*. He was known
 ' baffled, conquered, and contem-
 ' ned in every shape; and found it
 ' as impossible to avoid doing his
 ' Victor the service he required of
 ' him, as you will find it to make
 ' me accept, or think I stand in need
 ' of any you can do me.

YET I can tell you, Sir, that
 tho' I am neither a Bear or Lyon,
 I am a sort of a Bull I assure you,
 and have had my Horns gilt
a la mode de Paris. What is there
 too dangerous for me to attempt
 who have ventured to marry — Be-
 lieve me, Sir, it will be your best
 way either to take me into your
 own or to commend me into some
 other Gentleman's service, for I am
 capable of being either Pimp, Buf-
 foon,

[30]

fool, Scribbler, Poet, fathering o-
ther Men's Writings or Children,
and, in fine, fit for any thing ex-
cept Fighting and Fidelity. I am,

S I R,

Your most Obedient.

From my Habitation up
four pair of Stairs at
the Two fighting Cocks
in *Grub-Street*.



F I N I S.